



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes - (28.04.2026)

Time: 17:30

Date: 28th April 2026

Chair: Bianca Holland

Ben Jordan	(BJ)	BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming
Azeez Mustapha	(AM)	Professional MSc by Research International Business
Sumaya Amin Reya	(SAR)	Professional MSc by Research International Business
Zainab Yusuf Abdul-Raheem	(ZYAR)	Professional MA by Research Communications, PR and the Media
Hannah Rose Rogness	(HRR)	BA (Hons) Animation
Finley Durham	(FD)	BA (Hons) Human Geography
Noah Earey	(NE)	BA (Hons) Drama and Performance Practice
Ruby Goldthorpe	(RG)	BA (Hons) Sport Business Management
Annabel Tindal	(AT)	LLB (Hons) Law
Regina Adebajo	(RA)	Professional MSc by Research Education

Ellie Bayliffe	(EB)	BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology
Sharon George	(SG)	LLB (Hons) Law
Leah Doughty	(LD)	BA (Hons) Architecture
Lily Pead-Williams	(LPW)	BA (Hons) Sound and Music Production
Mel Jackson	(MJ)	BSc (Hons) Psychology
Joseph Atton	(JA)	BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance
Jacob Dowsett	(JD)	BA (Hons) Sound and Music Production
George Hewett	(GH)	BSc (Hons) Computer Science
Nathan Welham	(NW)	BSc (Hons) Zoology
Sharmon Pearson	(SP)	BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance
Hannah Davis	(HD)	BSc Adult nursing Sept 23
Roarke Conybear	(RC)	BA (Hons) Business and Management
Katarina Kraus	(KK)	BA (Hons) Documentary Photojournalism
Eunice Omolere	(EO)	MSc Human Resource Management
Debbie Fadiro	(DF)	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
Tom Neal	(TN)	BA (Hons) Geography
Alex Harrison	(AH)	BSc (Hons) Biology
Lucy Capener	(LC)	BSc Adult Nursing Jan 24
Bianca Holland	(BH)	Education and Community Officer
Drew Humphry	(DH)	Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator

Welcome & Opening

BH welcomed attendees, invited course feedback, and congratulated students on dissertation submissions.

Academic Meetings

LWP asked how many academic meetings students should expect.

BH confirmed most courses hold approximately three per year.

Course Rep Survey

BH shared an end-of-year survey covering:

- Course rep experience
- SU and officer performance
- Suggestions for summer engagement
- Noted importance for Level 6 reps due to accreditation being in its first year.

Officer Update

Report taken as read.

BH updated on meeting with the MP for Tewkesbury, highlighting: Student concerns on HMOs and Article 4

MP agreed to:

- Write to the Council opposing Article 4 in Gloucester
- Raise student finance reform with NUS

Housing & Article 4

Students raised concerns about rising costs and reduced housing availability

- NE questioned how the University is supporting students amid housing pressures.
- FD highlighted risk of students being pushed into expensive university accommodation.
- MJ shared lived experience: maintenance loan does not cover rent or living costs.

- NW suggested gathering student signatures/petition data to evidence impact.
- FD and NW raised the idea of rent freezes or pricing intervention.
- NE suggested targeted support for low-income students.

BH acknowledged:

- Article 4 is likely to increase demand for university accommodation
- Concerns around high rents (e.g. Pittville)
- Alignment with NUS housing campaigns

Action:

BH/DH to research feasibility of rent freezes

Article 4 Consultation

- BH guided members through completing the consultation form.
- NE requested clearer guidance
- BH gave walkthrough of consultation form.

Course Rep Accreditation

General agreement that accreditation is valuable but needs improvement.

- NE: Support points-based system, but retain mandatory elements (e.g. training)
- LC: Accessibility concerns for health courses
- NE: Intensive courses should be treated similarly to placements
- RC: Suggested case-by-case review approach
- GH: Raised concerns about summer access (account closure)
- FD: Asked about certificate collection logistics

BH asked if the course reps would prefer a case by case awarding of the accreditation

13 For / 11 Against → Passed

- BH will apply case-by-case accreditation review this year
- Long-term shift toward points-based model under development

Academic Experience & Course Issues

Multiple reps raised concerns about workload and coordination:

- NE: Excessive workload and lack of coordination between academics
- KK: High workload with unclear expectations → impacting engagement and confidence
- LPW: Confirmed similar issues on their course

BH noted:

- Strong communication at senior level
- Issues appear concentrated at academic delivery level, particularly in ACE School

Students highlighted inconsistency and lack of clarity of the attendance policy

- SP: Policy unclear; withdrawal processes inconsistent and need transparency
- NE: Reports of passive-aggressive communication
- SP: Attendance not always recorded correctly on JISC
- GH: Suggested exploring more positive engagement strategies

BH noted:

- Agreed issues are significant
- Highlighted risks for international students relying on attendance data

ACL Engagement

Positive:

LC (Nursing), TN (Geography), RC (Business & Management)

Concerns:

- GH: Difficulty building relationships with academics
- MJ: Staff unaware of key institutional developments (e.g. AI)

Assessment & Scheduling

Key concerns around deadlines and flexibility:

- NW: Deadlines clash with field trips; no flexibility for extensions
- NE: Disproportionate impact on disabled students

Field Trips & Hidden Costs

- FD: Compulsory trip costing ~£1000 → not affordable
- NW: Trips communicated when applying, but full costs unclear
- FD: Students required to attend more expensive overseas trip than expected

NE Noted:

- Impact on disabled students (extensions)
- Concerns for trans students with passport issues

BH acknowledged:

- Need for greater transparency on hidden course costs

AI in Teaching & Assessment

- MJ: Staff unaware of AI developments
- TN: AI detection tools causing stress and uncertainty
- NE: AI replacing student-created content (e.g. promotions)
- GH: AI important for employability (especially coding)
- AH: Some staff rely on manual marking rather than AI tools
- SP: Potential AI module in development (Business School)
- BH: Discussions ongoing, though some elements remain confidential.

Actions & Next Steps

BH/DH

- Research rent freeze options

BH

- ACE communication issues
- Workload concerns
- Accreditation improvements

All reps encouraged to:

- Complete Course Rep Survey
- Submit Article 4 consultation
- Attend AGM